



## COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for September 21, 2009

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**FIRST CARDINAL OF GHANA VISITING COUNCIL CHAMBERS:** Columbus City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will welcome His Eminence Peter Cardinal Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Ghana's first Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, to this evening's Council Meeting. Cardinal Turkson served as president of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference from 1997 to 2005 and as chancellor of the Catholic University College of Ghana since 2003. Pope John Paul II appointed him cardinal in 2003 and he was one of the electors who participated in the papal conclave that selected Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. Cardinal Turkson is visiting the United States before traveling to the Vatican to serve as recording secretary for the synod of African bishops.

**MILLER CONTINUES BENEFITS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL:** The City of Columbus remains committed to supporting its employees who have been called to active military duty in defense of our nation. Administration Committee Chair [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1137-2009* to authorize the continuation of military leave with pay and benefits to City employees who have been or will be called to active military duty. Council President Mentel initiated the program after September 11, 2001.

**PLANNING AHEAD FOR WINTER STORMS:** Public Service Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is helping Columbus' "Snow Warriors" prepare for another winter season with the City's annual purchase of rock salt. Craig is introducing *ordinance 1129-2009* to authorize the purchase of approximately 9,000 tons of rock salt for \$960,000. The contract was competitively bid and awarded to the lowest and most responsive bidder, American Rock Salt Co, LLC.

**PROVIDING CARE FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS:** The Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) funds several programs that provide critical care for residents suffering from the debilitating and long-term effects of Alzheimer's disease. *Ordinance 1077-2009*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), allocates a \$386,678 grant from the Ohio Department of Aging for the Alzheimer's Respite and Senior Volunteer programs. COAAA serves approximately 500 clients suffering from Alzheimer's. Click [here](#) for a complete list of the agencies receiving funding.

**STIMULUS DOLLARS IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY:** The City of Columbus continues to partner with the federal government to obtain every possible dollar to fund our public safety forces. *Ordinance 1166-2009*, sponsored by Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#), allows the City to accept a \$12,742,800 Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) grant through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding for this award is for 50 sworn officer positions, full-time, entry-level, grant approved salary and fringe benefits for three years for new or rehired career law enforcement officer positions. There will be officer costs not eligible for federal funding. These costs include, among other things, step raises, shift and overtime pay, uniform allowances and increases in fringe benefits costs as officers become entitled to these benefits under the collective bargaining contract.

**PALEY CLEARING THE PATH FOR STIMULUS FUNDS:** The City of Columbus also is applying stimulus dollars to help improve Columbus' infrastructure, with more than \$33-million awarded to various construction projects around the city. One of the largest efforts is taking place near Nationwide Children's Hospital with the Parsons/Livingston Avenue Roadway Improvement Project. Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0142x-2009* to continue acquiring the necessary property near the Parsons and Livingston intersection to ensure the timely use of the ARRA funds.

**NEW WEST SIDE HEALTH CARE CENTER:** Columbus residents seeking primary care and other health services soon will have a modern, expanded facility offering medical assistance. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) will join City and neighborhood leaders Tuesday, September 22 for the grand opening of the Westside Health Care Center. This \$7.9 million new facility, located at 2300 West Broad Street in the historic Fire Station 17 building, will replace the Hilltop Health Center and will have the capacity to serve triple the number of patients currently being treated at the current Sullivant Avenue site. The opening ceremony begins at 4 pm.

**CITY MOVING FORWARD WITH AAA BOND RATING:** With one of the three most prominent bond rating agencies in the country (Moody's Investor Services) announcing Columbus has maintained its highest possible rating, City Council President Michael C. Mentel is sponsoring amendments to the 2009 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). *Ordinance 1199-2009* will add a limited amount of critical projects to the CIB in preparation of a municipal bond sale in November. Proceeds from the sale will be used for a range of community improvement projects, including the purchase of new safety apparatus and equipment. Council will be adding capacity to purchase two new ladders and two new engines for the Division of Fire, as well as an updated Police and Fire Computer Aided Dispatch system with mobile environment features, a record management system, interfaces with existing systems, automated false alarm billing, and a backup communication center at the Fire Training Academy. The AAA rating allows the City to pay lower interest rates, saving millions of tax dollars.